

# LRDA IN ACTION

by Garry Lewis Barton  
LRDA Public Relations  
Office



The widow of Thaddeus Oxendine receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Shirley Lowry in honor of



The widow of Hilton Oxendine is shown receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Shirley Lowry in ap-

## LRDA FOUNDERS HONORED

"The occasion was long overdue," noted one among the throng of well-wishers who turned out Saturday at Sheff's Seafood in Pembroke to honor the original founders of Regional Development Association, the forerunner of Lumbee Regional Development Association.

A great deal of LRDA's early history surfaced as a number of the original founders in attendance reminisced during a period in the program set aside for testimonials. The theme was the same throughout the testimonials--there were many trials and tribulations encountered and overcome in order for LRDA to become the viable and effective people-oriented organization it is today.

The program was coordinated by Ms. Vera Lowry who "was the thread to this whole organization," according to Roderick Locklear, one of the founders who presently serves as vice-chairman of LRDA's Board of Directors. The then Regional Development Association (RDA) was chartered in 1968 by Mr. Locklear, A. Bruce Jones (also a member of LRDA's Board of Directors), Horace Locklear and Gerald Sider.

When Mr. Locklear noted that Ms. Vera Lowry "put in a lot of time," Ms. Lowry interjected: "...and a lot of Elmer's (her husband) money." Continued Mr. Locklear: "It is because of her dedicated hours this program is what it is today."

During Rev. Bob Mangum's testimonial it was noted that the Robeson County Church and Community Center made a \$500 donation to RDA during its earlier days when the fledgling organization was struggling just to keep the doors open. The Robeson County Church and Community Center also paid Ms. Vera's salary when the organization consisted of a staff of one--Ms. Vera. Mr. Mangum noted that Ms. Vera was paid \$50 a week and she had to bear her own expenses. Of course, all this was before RDA received its first grant of in excess of \$4,000. Since this first grant, more than \$25 million has been funneled into the Robeson County area through the auspices of LRDA to help improve the plight of the greater Robeson County Indian Community.

Ms. Shirley Lowry, also an honored founder, made a very moving and emotional posthumous tribute to two of the original founders--the late

who presented Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of LRDA to each of the original founders in attendance.

Testimonials followed the memorial tributes and proved to be a highlight of the day. The exciting program was capped by a slide show presentation showing the founders how their dream had developed into an effective organization that caters to the needs of the greater Robeson County Indian Community.

Indeed, the very essence of the organizational structure of Lumbee Regional Development Association can be said to be indebted to these gallant and dedicated forefathers (and mothers).

After the program, those in attendance were treated to a dinner which was hosted by LRDA.

Those receiving Certificates of Appreciation were: Willie G. Locklear, James W. Thomas, James W. Mitchell, Shirley M. Lowry, Rev. Simeon Cummings, Vera M. Lowry, Herdman Revels, Harold Deese, John Robert Jones, John C. Locklear, Jr., Howard Oxendine, Ruth Woods, W.J. Strickland, Curt Locklear and Wade Jacobs. Hilton Oxendine and Thaddeus Oxendine were honored posthumously. The first chairman of Regional Development Association was Rev. Simeon Cummings. The second chairman was W.J. Strickland.

### ENROLL TODAY

One of the conditions for gaining federal recognition is that the tribe prepare, maintain and update a tribal roll.

Each day we pick up a newspaper or listen to television or radio we hear of more cuts by the federal government. Needless to say, these cuts seriously affect LRDA which is funded by federal monies primarily.

However, the drastic cuts in social programs also seriously affect a large portion of the Indian population in Robeson County since this county is one of the poorest in the state.

The writing is on the wall. As Reaganomics continues to get a tighter grip on federal monies in the difficult years ahead, federally recognized tribes will receive top priority when programs come up for refunding. Lumbee Indians are a non-federally recognized tribe. Therefore if we wish to continue to close the educa-

tion and socio-economic gap between ourselves and our white counterparts we must seriously consider seeking federal recognition for the Lumbee Indian Tribe.

That's why I am enrolled. And I was enrolled before I started working for LRDA. And that's why you should be enrolled too. Personally I will do whatever is in my power to see that my children receive the same breaks and opportunities as I did. Won't you?

Call 521-8602 today and ask for any member of the Lumbee Enrollment staff. Someone will come out to your home and enroll you if you wish. There are no obligations and the process of enrollment is simple. After all, there is truth in the adage: United we stand, divided we fall.

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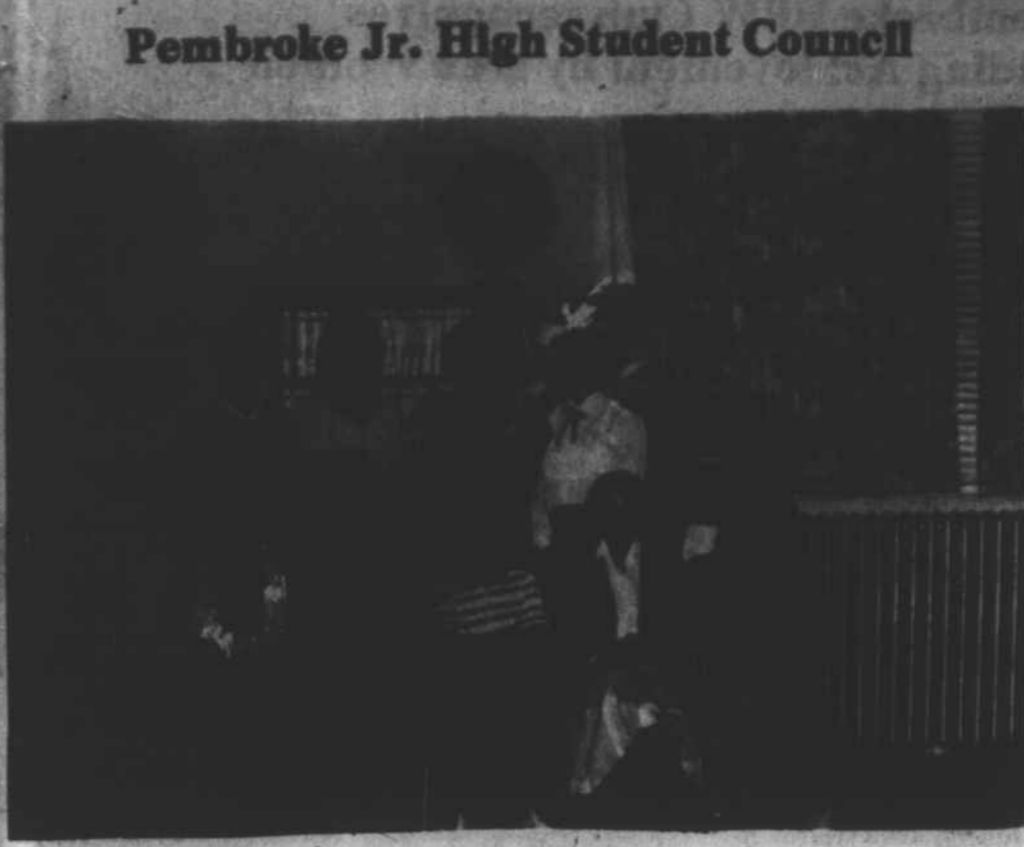
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### CENTER FOR THE ARTS PARENT MEETING

LRDA's Lumbee River Native American Center For The Arts will hold its first parent meeting of the new academic year on Tuesday, November 9, 1982, at 7:30 p.m. in the LRDA Annex building here in Pembroke. Several important items are on the agenda, including the election of parent officers and a discussion of upcoming performances. In addition to the business session, entertainment will be provided by the Lumbee River Singers and Dancers.

All parents are urged to attend this very important meeting.



Shown above are the newly elected officers of the Pembroke Junior High School Student Council. Shown seated left to right are: Tracy V. Locklear, 9th grade representative; Sandra Cummings,

Treasurer; Matthew Todd Locklear, 8th grade representative; Shelby Locklear, Vice President; Amanda Lowery, 8th grade representative. Standing, back row, left to right: Tony Chavis, 9th grade

representative; Lena Sampson, 8th grade representative; Willette Carter, President; Espondonna M. Lowry, Secretary; Kevin Oxendine, 9th grade representative. (Photo by Connie Brayboy)



Smart athletes know that water is essential for well-being.

## NEWS FROM OUTREACH HOLINESS CHURCH

by Sister Fannie C. Oxendine  
Out Reach Holiness Church Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. Morning service is at 11 a.m. Prayer service is at 7:30 p.m. The pastor is the Rev. James "Buddy" Bullard, Jr.

We praise God for his many blessings.

Our lesson-Sunday was "Certainty of God's Promises." We know that God will never break a promise. All the promises of God are true and in his amen unto the glory of God in us.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians leads with problems within the church and ways to correct them. The apostle's commitment to faith fully preach the gospel of Christ resulted in great trials and tribulations in his life. Whatever the trouble was and pressure, Paul felt like a "beast of burden crushed beneath too heavy load."

You may feel that God's children should not have burdens, trials, etc. but God's

word says "The way of discipleship is the way of the cross." To serve Christ here on this earth you have a cross to carry. And every true servant of God can expect tribulation.

Eternal salvation comes through believing and accepting the promises of God.

We just praise God for how he is blessing Out Reach Holiness Church. Souls are still being saved. We are still growing in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Nov. 27 which is the fourth Saturday night, we will be having a special singing. We are expecting about four good groups to be there. So we are welcoming you to come. Later in the month we will give you some of the singing groups' names. Make plans to be there and let's have a good time in the Lord.

May God bless you until next week...

You are always welcome at Out Reach Holiness Church.

## National School Lunch Week

Union Elementary School recently observed National School Lunch Week by serving the universal menu of oriental chicken, stir-fried vegetable, steamed rice, fruit cup fantasy, cheese biscuits, chinese fortune cookies and milk.

Mrs. Linda Sampson, Lunchroom Manager, along with the assistance from the classes of Ms. Molly Locklear and Ms. Mary Killian, decorated the school lunchroom with an oriental motif. Chinese lanterns hung in each window and were also hung randomly around the lunchroom. Vases containing pink cherry blossoms were placed on each table. An arrangement of various items from Taiwan, provided by Dr. Elizabeth Kuo of PSU, were placed in the rear of the lunchroom for all the children to see. A chinese dictionary was quite fascinating to all the students.

As the children sat on cushions on the floor to eat their lunch, Chinese music was played. The children also had the opportunity to eat with chopsticks, which had been brought by Ms. Diodra Howie, Teacher. Several of the classes made chinese coolie hats to wear as they ate their lunch.

Mr. Grady Oxendine, Principal of Union Elementary School, said, "The children enjoyed the oriental food as it was the first time most of the students had eaten Chinese cooking."

The following lunchroom personnel helped to prepare the meal: Ms. Essie Oxendine, Ms. Susan Clark, Ms. Bertha Jacobs, Ms. Linda Brayboy; Ms. Maggie Odom, and Mrs. Linda Sampson, School Lunchroom Manager.

Special guests were Mrs. Ola J. Goins, Director of Robeson County School Food Services; Mrs. Mary L. Branan, State Consultant; Ms. Geri Chavis, Supervisor of Robeson County Schools; Ms. Myra Cummings, Ms. Pam Beahre, Ms. Eleanor Schmitz and several parents and grand parents.

## ELECTION NOTES Cont'd from P-1

Kanny Kinlaw and William McCormick will serve as district soil and water conservation supervisors.

As voters did state wide, Robeson voters approved an amendment allowing general assembly members' terms to begin January 1 and turned back an amendment allowing bonds to be let without voter approval by the general assembly, specifically tax increment bonds.

### HUNT RETURNS AS HOKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

James A. Hunt, an incumbent Democratic Hoke County Commissioner, was returned to office in nearby Hoke County, sweeping in with Cleo Bratcher, Jr. and John G. Balfour, withstanding a challenge from Republican Evelyn Manning.

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